

**Deputy Chief of Mission Daniel A. Clune**  
**Remarks at the U.S. Embassy 2008 September 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**Commemorative Ceremony**  
**September 11, 2008**

**Your Excellencies Governor-General Quentin Bryce  
and Professor Michael Bryce, Air Chief Marshal Angus  
Houston, the Honorable Bob McMullan, Senator for the  
Australian Capital Territory Gary Humphries, David  
Spencer, Deputy Secretary at the Department of  
Foreign Affairs and Trade, Representatives of the  
Christian, Islamic, and Jewish faiths; Representatives of  
the Australian Capital Territory Fire Brigade and of  
the Australian Federal Police; members of the Embassy  
family, honored guests, ladies and gentlemen:**

**Thank you all for joining us today to mark the seventh  
anniversary of the attacks of September 11<sup>th</sup>. We are  
here today to remember the almost three thousand  
people from over ninety countries around the world  
who lost their lives that day in New York, Pennsylvania**

**and Washington, D.C. Ten of those lost were Australian. We are also here to pay tribute to the four hundred NY City and Port Authority police and firefighters who died that day, and to recognize the heroism of the thousands of public safety officers, emergency medical personnel, police, firefighters and ordinary citizens who responded in the immediate aftermath of the attacks. We are especially pleased to have with us today Australian representatives of such first responders. This ceremony allows us all the opportunity to acknowledge and thank those here in Canberra and around the world who risk their lives daily to save and protect their fellow citizens.**

**Besides remembering the victims and honoring the survivors of September 11, we gather today to express**

**our opposition to the voices of hatred and intolerance around the world, and to reaffirm our commitment to the values of individual freedom, diversity, equality, and liberty.**

**Our struggle against terrorism is not a struggle against any nation or any religion. It is a struggle against extremism and a radical ideology used to justify brutality, violence, and murder of innocent victims for political ends.**

**I personally was assured that the extremists faced eventual defeat just hours after the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon when I learned of the heroism of the passengers aboard United Flight 93, which crashed into a field in Pennsylvania on the**

**morning of September 11<sup>th</sup>. The passengers aboard that flight stormed the cockpit and prevented hijackers who had seized the plane from flying it into the White House or the United States Capitol. Those 40 Americans took decisive action with the full knowledge that it would likely result in their own deaths. I realized then that terrorists had no chance of prevailing against 300 million similarly motivated Americans and many millions more in every country around the world.**

**The men and women of our armed forces and those of the more than 50 other countries, including the brave men and women of the Australian Defence Force, who have taken the fight to the extremists, have demonstrated the same motivation and determination as those passengers aboard United Flight 93. We thank**

**our allies for their commitment, and, as we remember the events of September 11<sup>th</sup>, let us also pay tribute to those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice, especially those members of the Australian Defence Force who have given their lives in Afghanistan.**

**I would now like to invite the Honorable Bob McMullan to address us as the representative of the Commonwealth of Australia.**

***(Remarks by Bob McMullan)***

**Ladies and Gentlemen: I will now request our United States Marines to approach the flag pole and raise and lower the flag to half staff.**

*(Marines Raise and Lower Flag. Bagpiper Plays Amazing Grace.)*

**I ask that you observe a moment of silence in memory of those who perished and in honor of those who survived.**

*(Moment of silence)*

**Ladies and Gentlemen: I thank you for coming to share this commemoration with us. Whatever your faith, philosophy, or tradition, please join us in reflecting on these events in your own way. We ask for God's blessing for the dead and injured and their families, and for each nation and family represented here today.**